

## EMAIL SENT TO OMWBE STAKEHOLDERS ON MAY 8, 2012

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Greetings OMWBE Certified Firms and Partners:

Below are some important items of interest for you and the programs OMWBE administers:

- University of Washington Minority Business Executive (MBE) Program - UW's MBE program is designed to increase the competitiveness of minority businesses. UW will have a one-week intensive program during June 10-15, 2012 for minority business leaders. To learn more about this program, UW will have a **Program Sampler and Information Session on May 17, 2012**. This Program Sampler and Information Session is FREE.

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Please join UW for its **Minority Business Executive (MBE) Program** Sampler and Information Session from **7:30 - 9:30 a.m. on May 17<sup>th</sup>**. Two of UW's MBE Program faculty: Dr. Mark Forehand (Marketing) and Dr. Pat Bettin (Leadership) will be speaking. For more information contact:

**Executive Education:**

**Phone: 206.543.8560**

**Email: execed@uw.edu**

**Web: www.foster.washington.edu/MBEP**

- Department of Transportation DBE Disparity Study

There is still time to be heard. You can submit your comments, including experiences working as a DBE with the consultant hired by WSDOT to conduct the DBE disparity study. Here is a link to information about the Disparity Study: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/EqualOpportunity/DisparityStudy/default.htm>. You can also contact Pacific Communications Consultants (425-455-5997) local MWBE/DBE firm who is assisting BBC Research & Consulting. Ask them how you to submit a written statement and the process for participating in an individual interview.

- Recently, King 5 News Station has had several stories involving OMWBE. The stories also involve firms certified by OMWBE as Disadvantaged Business Enterprises

(DBE). OMWBE certifies DBEs according to federal regulations. Therefore, the following Q & A about the federal regulations are particularly important to keep in mind:

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➤ **Question:**

Is OMWBE responsible for ensuring that DBEs hired to perform work toward DBE goals are capable to do that work and can be counted toward the mandatory DBE goals.

**Answer:**

The state agency, county or municipality that awards contracts with DBE mandatory goals is responsible to ensure that the DBE hired by it directly or as a subcontractor by general contractors is capable to do that work and can be counted toward the mandatory DBE goals. OMWBE only certifies DBEs. OMWBE does not determine whether the DBE is capable of performing the work scope on a specific project.

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➤ **Question:**

Is there a process for anyone to make a complaint if he or she has concerns about the certification eligibility of a DBE certified by OMWBE?

**Answer:**

The federal regulations have a specific process that allows anyone to file a complaint with OMWBE if he or she has concerns about the certification eligibility of a DBE certified by OMWBE.

➤ **Question:**

The King 5 news reports claim some DBEs should never have been allowed in the program by OMWBE.

**Answer:**

Each OMWBE certification decision is based upon information concerning the firm that is available to OMWBE at the time the certification decision is issued. If OMWBE later receives a complaint, it investigates the complaint. OMWBE currently has several open investigations involving DBE firms. These are in various stages of investigation. OMWBE is able to release the results of each investigation when it is complete and as permitted by state and federal regulations.

As always, I invite your questions and comments so that the state and federal program continue to meet its requirements and customer expectations.




Regards,

**Cathy V. Canorro**

**Director**

Washington State Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises

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